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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on the first part of its twenty-eighth session

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 16 to 19 September 1996

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INTRODUCTION

1. The first part of the twenty-eighth session of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 16 to 19 September 1996. In the course of the session, the Working Party held 2 plenary meetings - the 114th to 115th meetings. All other meetings were informal and held in private.

Chapter I

REVIEW OF THE UNCTAD SECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997, IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

(Agenda item 3)

2. For its consideration of this agenda item, the Working Party had before it the following documentation:

"The UNCTAD section of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 - proposed revisions to the programme of work" (TD/B/WP/98).

3. The **Deputy to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that it was now the Working Party's task to assist the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in reflecting the organization's objectives in its work programme for the continuation of the present budgetary biennium, that is until the end of 1997. This was of prime importance so that the momentum generated by UNCTAD IX and by the reform measures the Secretary-General was taking could be sustained.

4. It was the wish of member States - as expressed in paragraph 107(a) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377) - that the secretariat should consult member States at an early stage in the elaboration of its work programme. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD saw this process of consultation as an important one in understanding the expectations of the membership concerning UNCTAD's work in the years ahead. Accordingly, the Working Party would also have the opportunity to provide advice in connection with the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999, since its session was taking place just before the drafting by the United Nations Secretariat of the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999 for the consideration of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

5. The proposed revision of the programme of work as set out in document TD/B/WP/98 amounted to a major consolidation of the programme of work consistent with the priorities, objectives and intergovernmental machinery established by UNCTAD IX. Five separate programmes containing 25 subprogrammes had been rationalized into one programme consisting of five subprogrammes. These subprogrammes in turn corresponded to the structure of the secretariat announced earlier. Specific objectives of the subprogrammes were set out in the final documents of UNCTAD IX ("Midrand Declaration" and "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377)) and had subsequently been reflected in the UNCTAD programme of the United Nations medium-term plan for 1998-2001.

6. Covering approximately one-third of the period until UNCTAD X, document TD/B/WP/98 was a first effort in the direction of reflecting the outcome of UNCTAD IX in the work programme. It also included the work programmes subsequently established by the Trade and Development Board for its intergovernmental machinery at its thirteenth executive session in July. In the latter connection, as the Board had not yet established agendas for the second sessions of the Commissions and the Commissions themselves had not yet met to establish the expert meetings described in paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for

Growth and Development", it had not been possible to include the related activities in document TD/B/WP/98. In line with standard United Nations terminology, the reference in the document to "ad hoc expert groups" was to the hiring by the United Nations of participants in advisory meetings at the initiative of the Secretary-General, and not the "expert meetings" referred to in paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development".

7. Bearing in mind that UNCTAD was a subsidiary body of the General Assembly and the General Assembly's concern that its mandates should be fully carried out, the UNCTAD secretariat had included such mandates in the revised work programme for the current biennium. For the purpose of reporting accurately to the General Assembly on programme performance for the current biennium, outputs or services already delivered, or at an advanced stage of completion, had also been included. The document also included - under subprogramme 9.1 - activities such as statistical services, electronic data processing (EDP) and documentation reference which provided direct support to, and were thus necessary for, carrying out the programme of work. Within each subprogramme, outputs were categorized and cited in accordance with the standard presentation and nomenclature of the United Nations programme budget.

8. Once the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had taken into account the views expressed by the Working Party, he would finalize the deployment of staff and other resources. This would be carried out within the framework of the structure which had been announced earlier and which had been decided upon after consultations with member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the staff at large. This exercise of deployment of resources would involve consultations with Headquarters, primarily the Office of the Controller of the United Nations, which was empowered to issue revised allotments within the overall budget approved by the General Assembly.

9. The major restructuring launched by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, which was now nearing completion, had been carried out in parallel with the efficiency review set in motion by the United Nations Secretary-General throughout the Organization. In turn, these processes had come on top of the decision taken by the General Assembly in December 1995 to approve significant reductions in the budget for the current biennium. In addition, immediately after the Conference, the secretariat had had to draft the medium-term plan for 1998-2001 and to present it to the Working Party and to CPC in New York. These processes involved not only work within the UNCTAD secretariat but also extensive consultations and discussions with the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Controller, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management at New York. It was of capital importance for the member States that, immediately after the Working Party's present session, the secretariat settle down to carrying out its work programme for the rest of the biennium. The Secretary-General was particularly conscious in this regard of the necessity for the secretariat to be able to maintain the momentum generated by the Conference and by the reform efforts under way in the United Nations.

10. The representative of **Morocco**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, emphasized the importance of working documents being published on time. The pursuit of the Working Party's session would have to be delayed in order to give delegations time to study the documentation properly and contribute seriously to the work of the Working Party.

11. The representative of **Ireland**, speaking as **President of the European Council**, said that one of the priority objectives of the Working Party was to ensure that UNCTAD's work programme faithfully reflected the decisions taken at UNCTAD IX. It was also important to ensure that there was no confusion over the purpose of the Working Party's session. In a review of the UNCTAD section of the programme budget, a revision of the programme narrative was one aspect of the work, but reviewing the consequential changes in the budgetary allocations flowing from the readjusted programme was equally important. In that context, the Midrand final document contained numerous references to the need for UNCTAD to focus on a small number of priority topics. It also emphasized the role played by the Working Party in assisting the Board in its assessment of the budgetary implications of the proposed work programme. A key element in the prioritization of UNCTAD's work and in the implementation of the Working Party's role as specified in the Midrand document would be the provision by the secretariat of detailed and accurate information on the budgetary implications of the revised work programme. The revision of the programme narrative and the review of the programme budget must proceed simultaneously if the Working Party was to fulfil the role entrusted to it at Midrand.

12. The representative of **Argentina**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, agreed with the representative of Morocco that delegations must have time to study the documentation, since it was still not available in all the official languages. He requested the secretariat to provide the latest information on the restructuring of the secretariat to help the Working Party in its review of the programme budget. Finally, he agreed with the representative of Ireland concerning the fact that the work programme must be based on the decisions taken at UNCTAD IX, but it was important to take a pragmatic approach, and nothing agreed to in the final documents adopted at Midrand should be eliminated.

13. The representative of the **United States of America** agreed with the representatives of Morocco and Argentina that documentation was a critical issue, and documents for meetings must be made available in good time. He also agreed with the representative of Ireland concerning the fact that the substance of the work programme must reflect the outcome of UNCTAD IX. In the review of the programme budget, his delegation would be paying particular attention to the need for prioritization, the ability of member States to judge the cost and relative value of activities, the justification for any activities that appeared to duplicate each other, the need for the many publications proposed, and any overlap between UNCTAD and other institutions.

14. The representative of **Japan** said that UNCTAD IX had reached agreement with regard to the future work of UNCTAD. UNCTAD was highly respected for the reforms carried out, and it was important to make sure that the agreement reached at UNCTAD IX would be fully reflected in terms of actual UNCTAD programmes in future.

15. The document before the Working Party did not contain any reference to the distribution of posts in the secretariat or provide any budget figures, and this would certainly prevent the Working Party from conducting a review of the UNCTAD budget. He therefore welcomed the holding of a resumed session of the Working Party in December.

16. Document TD/B/WP/98 seemed to include more or less all the activities the UNCTAD secretariat had been engaged in before UNCTAD IX, and so it included a number of items which were not mentioned at all in the UNCTAD IX final documents. It must be supposed that many of those items were either those which had been entrusted to UNCTAD by General Assembly resolutions or those which were being supported by a donor or had been specifically asked for by some developing countries. Nevertheless, even with regard to items which had some kind of justification, the activities in question might need to be discontinued if they had failed to produce satisfactory and useful results. There was no need for a work programme that produced only a research paper which had nothing to do with the UNCTAD intergovernmental process or did not help any developing country in a substantial way.

17. Finally, under the present system, any savings resulting from the UNCTAD reform would be returned to United Nations Headquarters, without necessarily benefiting UNCTAD activities. In order to implement a meaningful reform of UNCTAD, at least part of the savings resulting from the reform of UNCTAD should be utilized in UNCTAD. The secretariat should seek a fiscal mechanism to make this possible and should consult with New York on this issue.

18. The representative of **Cuba**, speaking as **Coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Group**, expressed support for the representatives of Argentina and Morocco concerning the question of documentation. The idea presented by Japan concerning the reinvestment of savings in UNCTAD was welcome; such funds could be used for technical cooperation and to finance expert groups.

19. The representative of **Nepal** said that he supported Morocco concerning the need to give delegations time to study the documentation. Countries entered the process of globalization and liberalization from different starting points, and this led to unique problems in terms of market access, capital and technology flows, and institutional transformation. These unique problems increased the risk of globalization for the weakest countries. UNCTAD IX had agreed that marginalization was intolerable, and had further agreed that the UNCTAD secretariat should be adequately equipped to carry out its mandate in that regard. His delegation supported the view that the final documents of Midrand should provide the guiding principle and the basis for the revision of the work programme, and it was therefore concerned by the selective application of the Midrand consensus.

20. The representative of **Morocco**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, agreed that the outcome of UNCTAD IX must provide the framework for the review of the work programme and for all priority-setting. The document presented by the UNCTAD secretariat reflected the secretariat structure, but the African Group had not been informed of that structure, and it therefore found it difficult to set the secretariat's proposals in context. He also agreed that priority-setting was important, but for that it was essential to have information on the resources being allocated to each activity. Finally, publication policy was extremely important, and his Group would be looking closely at the coherence between the different types of publications produced by UNCTAD, and particularly between technical and "policy" documents.

21. The representative of **Uganda** said that the secretariat's proposals seemed to be in line with United Nations planning and programming rules and to fit within the framework of the outcome of UNCTAD IX. In that connection, it was important to establish the accountability of individual secretariat units for different activities. His delegation welcomed the fact that issues relating to "least developed, land-locked and island developing countries" were being grouped together under one subprogramme.

Informal meetings

22. The Working Party pursued its consideration of agenda item 3 in private informal meetings.

Closing plenary

23. At the closing plenary of the first part of the Working Party's session, on 20 September 1996, the **Chairman** said that, having met for three days in informal meetings, the Working Party had been unable to agree on the proposed revisions to UNCTAD's work programme. Since, during the informal meetings, delegations had been able to make comments on all the subprogrammes except subprogramme 9.4, delegations were invited to send written comments on that subprogramme to the secretariat so that they could be taken into account when the revised text of the work programme was finalized.

24. The representative of **Morocco**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, said that, after carefully studying document TD/B/WP/98, his Group considered that it represented a satisfactory basis for UNCTAD to pursue its work programme. His Group would have liked to complete an in-depth review of all the proposed subprogrammes and to reach a consensus thereon in the spirit that had prevailed before, during and after UNCTAD IX. The framework for UNCTAD's work programme and mandates was provided by the final documents adopted by UNCTAD IX and by resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. His Group attached great importance to all the subprogrammes set out in document TD/B/WP/98, including subprogramme 9.5 on the least developed countries and land-locked and island developing countries, activities relating to assistance to the Palestinian people, and other activities of particular interest to Africa. His Group considered that subprogramme 9.5 must be retained because it would help enhance transparency in the secretariat, particularly with regard to the allocation of resources, and support the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD in its horizontal consideration of LDC issues and the follow-up to all the secretariat's work in this area. It greatly regretted that consensus had not been reached on the revised programme of work.

25. The representative of **Cuba** said that his delegation would have preferred it if the Working Party had been able to adopt a summary of the Chairman by consensus. The work programme revisions proposed by the secretariat were consistent with the outcome of Midrand. His delegation attached particular importance to subprogramme 9.5, which would allow the vertical and horizontal consideration of LDC issues, and to the continued provision of support by UNCTAD to the Palestinian people.

26. The representative of **Nepal**, speaking on behalf of the **Asian Group**, thanked the secretariat for its efforts to revise the UNCTAD work programme to bring it into tune with the outcome of UNCTAD IX. His Group would have liked the revised work programme to be adopted by consensus. UNCTAD IX had produced a partnership, and a partnership should be characterized by cooperation. His Group had suggested improvements to the work programme, but its main concern was to see UNCTAD embark on its post-Midrand activities without delay and in a cost-effective manner. It was his Group's view that the Midrand texts should not be used as a straightjacket to limit UNCTAD's activities, nor should the Midrand consensus be applied selectively. UNCTAD was the primary economic organization of the United Nations system and played the central role in the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues; the utility of its work programme should be judged on the basis of the benefit that accrued to end-users and of its mandates. In that connection, UNCTAD was a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, and it drew its mandates as much from the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies as it did from the quadrennial conferences of UNCTAD. At UNCTAD IX, it had been agreed to reduce the number of intergovernmental meetings, but it seemed that the style of work had not changed. Unless member States refrained from revisiting agreed issues, meetings would remain long and numerous.

27. With regard to subprogramme 9.5, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s had been adopted unanimously by the Second United Nations Conference on the LDCs in 1990, and the General Assembly had subsequently endorsed the Programme of Action and decided upon the level of resources for the follow-up throughout the 1990s. The specific actions relating to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries had been mandated by the General Assembly in various resolutions. Finally, following the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the General Assembly had requested that the capacity of UNCTAD be strengthened in order to support the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Global Conference.

28. The representative of the **United States of America** regretted that no consensus had been reached on the revised UNCTAD work programme. His delegation had hoped that the priorities set at Midrand would be reflected in the revised work programme, but the absence of agreement cast doubt on the usefulness of Midrand as a whole. If States rejected the lowest possible performance standards, such as dates for outputs, there would be no performance criteria at all.

29. His delegation agreed wholeheartedly on the need to give priority to LDC issues, but it opposed the establishment of a separate subprogramme on such issues, since they were to be treated cross-sectorally. The proposed structure of the work programme would marginalize LDC issues, impede their integration into UNCTAD's sectoral work and therefore run counter to the outcome of UNCTAD IX. In that connection, he regretted that the outcome of the Working Party's previous session had not adequately reflected his and other delegations' opposition to having a separate work programme on LDCs. With regard to assistance to the Palestinian people, his delegation clearly recognized the General Assembly's mandates in that regard, but it regretted the prominence given to the issue in the revised work programme given its complete absence from the Midrand documents. It also regretted the lack of relevance of the proposed activities; what was

needed was products that benefited the Palestinian people. His delegation had proposed that activities relating to a pilot seminar on the mobilization of the private sector to encourage FDI flows to LDCs should be included under subprogramme 9.2 instead of subprogramme 9.1, and activities relating to competition law and policy should be included under subprogramme 9.2 instead of subprogramme 9.3. Finally, it had opposed the activity included under section 5(a)(iv) of subprogramme 9.2 on the grounds that it was not appropriate for UNCTAD to become involved in commercial negotiations between Governments and private companies.

30. The representative of **Mongolia** said that land-lockedness caused structural deficiencies and imbalances and hindered overall socio-economic development. It eroded competitiveness and promoted marginalization, and it must therefore be seen in a broader development context. The agreement reached at Midrand, which grouped together the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, was part of an arduously negotiated and delicate package, and to interpret it arbitrarily could disrupt the package and set a dangerous precedent. The only appropriate approach was to maintain subprogramme 9.5, which reflected the consolidated position of all those countries whose concern was to ensure that the issues of least developed, land-locked and island developing countries were treated in an appropriate framework. In that connection, the reference in subprogramme 9.4 to the provision of assistance to land-locked countries in the field of transit transport should be incorporated in subprogramme 9.5.

31. The representative of **Argentina**, speaking on behalf of the **Latin American and Caribbean Group**, regretted that consensus had not been achieved in the Working Party, even although document TD/B/WP/98 represented a pragmatic approach, reflected the intention to implement the outcome of UNCTAD IX and provided a good basis for negotiation and analysis of the work programme. His Group confirmed the modifications to the revised work programme that it had accepted in the course of the informal meetings, and would make additional comments available.

32. The representative of **Mexico** thanked the secretariat for the proposed revisions to the UNCTAD programme of work. It was to be regretted that the revised work programme had not been adopted by consensus. Further to the mandate emanating from UNCTAD IX, his country supported the secretariat's proposal to establish subprogramme 9.5 devoted specifically to the problems faced by the least developed countries. The creation of this subprogramme would give special emphasis to the LDCs, and in support of what had been said by the delegation of Mongolia, his delegation associated itself with the proposal for all topics of interest to LDCs to be grouped together under that subprogramme. As no consensus had been reached on the elimination of subprogramme 9.5, it should remain part of the revised work programme for 1996-1997, as proposed by the secretariat.

33. The representative of **Switzerland** said that the activities proposed by the secretariat in document TD/B/WP/98 provided a satisfactory basis for UNCTAD to pursue its work programme for 1996-1997. His delegation would have preferred changes in the structure of the subprogrammes, but it accepted the proposed structure, including subprogramme 9.5. It attached great importance to activities benefiting LDCs, and it would have preferred another approach to their problems, but it would not oppose the preferred solution of those concerned. In the examination of the budget for the remainder of the biennium, it would be

important to see whether the listing of some activities under given subprogrammes was the most efficient solution. In that connection, his delegation considered that there should be a better match between subprogrammes and the intergovernmental machinery, particularly for enterprise development and competition law and policy. Finally, his delegation regretted that it had not been possible to consider the revised work programme in its entirety. It attached great importance to subprogramme 9.4.

34. The representative of **Ireland**, speaking as **President of the European Council**, regretted that it had not been possible to reach agreement on document TD/B/WP/98. His delegation had put forward amendments to the document which might not now be reflected in the final text. It was paradoxical for delegations to invoke the spirit of Midrand but at the same time take an inflexible stance. At least it meant, however, that delegations were taking the outcome of UNCTAD IX seriously, even if they could not agree on how to implement it. It would be important to draw lessons from the Working Party's session for the forthcoming session of the Trade and Development Board and to renew the spirit of Midrand.

35. The representative of the **United Kingdom** deeply regretted that the Working Party had been unable to agree by consensus on document TD/B/WP/98. This was a sad reflection on the Working Party, coming so soon after Midrand, where the emphasis had been placed on cooperation, give and take and the hope that the future held greater promise for those who should be served by UNCTAD. He looked forward to the Working Party's resumed session in December, when the outcome might be different. He also regretted that the Working Party had not been able to discuss all the subprogrammes of the revised work programme, and noted that his delegation attached some importance to subprogramme 9.4.

36. The Working Party had in fact reached consensus on most elements of the revised work programme. There had been disagreement with regard to assistance to the Palestinian people, which was a matter of presentation, and on the proposal to establish a separate subprogramme 9.5. His country recognized the difficulties faced by the LDCs, but it believed in the outcome of Midrand and in the agreement reached there to treat LDC issues cross-sectorally and thus enhance the ability of the organization to assist the countries concerned. Not only would subprogramme 9.5 not assist in that ambition, it would be injurious and demeaning to LDCs. His country considered that UNCTAD's work programme should be based very firmly on the mandates, guidelines and framework set out in the final document of Midrand, which clearly established the four areas from which a 'few priority subjects' were to be drawn. The introduction of an additional subprogramme was not only a distraction but also a danger for the objectives set at Midrand. The chance provided by UNCTAD IX to deal with LDC issues in a new manner might be the last, and it would only bear fruit if there were no departures from what had been agreed at Midrand.

37. The representative of **Indonesia** said that, since no consensus had been reached on the revised work programme, the latter should be forwarded through the appropriate channels for finalization. Subprogramme 9.5 and the activities relating to assistance for the Palestinian people under subprogramme 9.1 should be maintained.

38. The representative of **Uganda** commended the secretariat for doing its best to reflect mandates in the revised work programme. In the consideration of work programmes, emphasis had often been put on the need for transparency and accountability, but if subprogramme 9.5 was eliminated, accountability for LDC activities would become diffuse and the activities would be marginalized. In United Nations programming exercises, it was important to achieve a consensus, but such a consensus must reflect a balance. A consensus had been reached at Midrand, but it would serve no useful purpose if some member States felt that certain programmes were being marginalized. With regard to the role of the Working Party, it was useful for it to be consulted in order to provide the views of member States, and in the past the views of the Working Party had been taken seriously at Headquarters, but there was a fear that, if the views of the weaker members of the Working Party were ignored, the work of the Working Party would be drawn into question. It was therefore to be hoped that, at the resumed session of the Working Party, a spirit of cooperation would prevail.

39. The representative of **Norway** said that, at the Working Party's previous session, his country had raised the issue of the necessity of a separate subprogramme for LDCs. The reason for that concern had been purely managerial and structural in nature and had not in any way indicated any lack of sensitivity towards the LDC issue. Norway believed that the Midrand document in itself was a firm confirmation of the member countries' commitment to address the specific problems of the LDCs. Even if it was still not totally convinced about the need for a separate subprogramme, Norway would not insist on its deletion. It respected the great importance several countries attached to the maintenance of the subprogramme as a part of UNCTAD's overall work programme. Norway would work towards the integration of LDC issues in all the four main areas of UNCTAD's work, as stated in paragraph 85 of the Midrand document. That could best be done through a focused, well defined and cross-sectoral treatment of the specific problems relating to LDCs. His country did not believe that the question of a separate subprogramme would be the decisive factor in that respect.

40. The **Deputy to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD** said that the secretariat was optimistic about the future UNCTAD work programme. He welcomed the interest and commitment demonstrated by member States during the Working Party's discussions and noted that, although Governments had differed on some issues, they had done so in a constructive spirit. In actual fact, agreement had been reached on the vast majority of the activities contained in the subprogrammes that had been discussed, as well as on the overall balance of the programme, and many valuable suggestions had been made to give greater clarity and focus to the programme. He would have preferred it if the Working Party had been able to endorse the revised work programme, but there had not been enough time. He would be recommending to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD that, before finalizing the work programme, he conduct further consultations with interested delegations in order to arrive at a higher level of consensus.

41. The **Chairman** said that the Working Party had conveyed its feelings clearly to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD. He was sure that the latter would try to reconcile diverging views and take on board as many views as possible.

Chapter II

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

42. The first part of the twenty-eighth session of the Working Party was opened on 16 September 1996 by Mr. André Oberholzer (South Africa), Chairman of the Working Party at its twenty-seventh session.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1)

43. At its 114th (opening) plenary meeting, on 16 September 1996, the Working Party elected Mr. Dilip Sinha (India) as its Chairman and Mr. Bashir Musa (Nigeria) as its Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 2)

44. Also at its 114th plenary meeting, the Working Party adopted the provisional agenda for its twenty-eighth session (TD/B/WP/97), as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of the UNCTAD section of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, in the light of the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference
4. Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Working Party
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board.

45. With regard to the organization of its work, the Working Party decided that it would divide its session into two parts, with the second part to be held for two days in December 1996 to discuss the programme budget.

D. Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Working Party

(Agenda item 4)

46. At the closing (115th) plenary meeting of the first part of its twenty-eighth session, the Working Party decided to consider the provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session at the second part of its twenty-eighth session.

E. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 5)

47. At the same meeting, the Working Party adopted its draft report (TD/B/WP/L.74), subject to amendments submitted by delegations to the summaries of their statements, and authorized the Rapporteur to complete the final text of the report in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex

ATTENDANCE [1]

1. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Working Party, were represented at the session:

Argentina
Bulgaria
Chile
China
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Morocco
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Russian Federation
South Africa
Switzerland
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

2. The following other States members of UNCTAD, not members of the Working Party, were represented as observers at the session:

Algeria
Australia
Austria
Cuba
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Honduras
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Jamaica
Jordan
Liberia
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mongolia
Nepal
Philippines
Slovakia
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Uganda
Yemen

3. Palestine participated in the session as an observer.

4. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO also participated.

5. The following intergovernmental organization was represented at the session:

Organization of African Unity.

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[1] For list of participants, see TD/B/WP/INF.34.

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